produced annually in the opium factory at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the production of opium in this factory;

(c) if so,the details thereof;

(d) the production of opium in this factory during the years 1966,1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990 Year-wise; and

(e) if the production has declined, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Export quality opium of 90° Consistence is produced in the factory at Ghazipur. Annual production depends on the export orders in hand.

(b) No,Sir. since there is surplus capacity.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The accounts are maintained on financial year and not on calender year basis. The production of opium at Ghazipur factory in relevant financial years is given below:-

Year	*Quantity in Metric Tonnes at 90° C*
1966-67	462.367
1970-71	452.164
1975-76	444.069
1980 81	258.119
1985-86	384.400
1990-91	420.920

(e) Production of opium in the factory being dependent on export orders,cannot be said to have declined. However, receipt of raw opium from poppy fields has shown declining trend due to reduction in the licensed area under poppy cultivation. The primary reason for reduction in area under poppy cultivation is due to over-supply of opiate raw material in the world market.

[*English*]

Special Courts for Trying Narcotics Cases in Kerala

4884. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for trying cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time by which these courts are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Section 36 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act,1985, as amended, provides for trial of offences by Special Courts which are to be created by the State Governments. The State Government have been asked to set up special courts under the Act at the earliest.

Opening of Provisional Office of Vijaya Bank at Mandya, Karnataka

4885. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Vijaya Bank in Mandya district of Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to